

his dominions in a month by the moon.

So tell folk they did call they had in that month
of folly would fill a hundred volumes - too
many to write or to read.

There were tournaments amongst the knights
dighting with the cross - here for the golden
squires; there was riding at the ring, & dancing
in the hall & dancing on the green, there
was song & feasting every night & ~~feasting~~ sports

& pageants every day. As for the shows, every-
thing in history & everything in story was
set forth for the delight of the people. And Duke
Noel this lady gave prizes to whoever could pick
the biggest stone, or shoot the truest arrow, or come
off victorious in the combats between the knights.

There was only one thing that spoiled the pleasure
of Duke Noel. It was such a little thing that he
would not say a word about it to anybody,
but he could not get it off his mind.

He kept open house as we have said. In every
body for a whole month, he did not know
all his guests either by name or by sight.

There was one old woman that everyone noticed &
none spoke to; she was nobody's friend, &
nobody seemed to know where she had come
from. But people pulled their clothes about
them to make room for her when she passed
by, & even the children stopped their play to get
out of her way.

Though she was bent nearly double & walked with
two sticks, she stood higher than any man
there. Her back for now came halfway over
her chin. Long horrible fangs, twisted & nearly
black.

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black, the only teeth she had left. Christ out of
her mouth like the teeth of a bear. Her skin, dark,
~~wrinkled~~ filthy, hung in loose creases about her
face; ~~one~~ ^{one} ferret-eye gleamed from under her
brows; her lean body was clothed in a foul-
smelling sheep skin - the only garment she
wore: hanging amongst the ragged locks of her
gray hair, a horrible ornament - rattled as she
moved, - ~~was it a circle~~ ^{made} of the bones, ~~of the~~ ^{padding} ~~padding~~
fingers?

Now it seemed that this beg had no business with
anyone at the place - but ^{with} he had himself. Wherever
he moved, in ~~and~~ amongst his people, with a
word for this one & a smile for that, then near
the door, began him, giving his wicked eye upon
him, smothering at him with her horrible
teeth.

Even his bed chamber was not free of her; he
would wake in the night from a bad dream with
a sudden start & there, in the pitch darkness,
~~was something looking at him with wicked~~
^{flaring at him} glare, ~~she knew it was the one ferret eye of~~
the beg. Or he would hear the horrible rattle of
the ~~finger~~ ^{there} bones, ~~that he knew she was~~
performing ~~some~~ ^{her} witch's dance upon his
chamber floor.

All his time she never spoke, but - dragged the
dark like his shadow; was he sleeping or
waking, eating or playing, there she was, making
the blood run chill in his veins with the flar
of her evil eye. She haunted him like a
thing he had done, but - that was good, & could
not

gazing in a rusty look; while her hot ^{6017 June 23} joint health
caused the skin of his face to shrivel.
After that she disappeared, no one knew where; &
Hoel never saw her again: but soon enough he
had ~~litter~~ came to remember ~~the~~ helpful beg.

A Baby is born.

Again, a year & a day passed by in peace &
prosperity - for Hoel & for all Armorica, his people
sowed the ground & gathered their crops, & made money
in after sunset in their apple orchards, for
Hoel was their very faithful lord.

Now, in his great hall, he heard all cases that his
people brought before him & did justice between
man & man. Did a peasant come to him
with a tale of distress, that the floods had
carried off his little crops, that the rain poured
through his roof, that wife & children were
down with the fever - Hoel let no grass grow
under his feet - but mounted his black
mare, Leopold, & away to the spot: were it a hundred
miles off, that he might see ^{with} his own
eyes & judge for himself what need there was for
help.

Therefore his people both trusted & feared him: to
good & honest - very not afraid to come to their
lord with a tale of trouble, for they knew he would
soon find out the truth of it - for himself.

But the lazy & lying beggars were in most
countries, & many like letters to the skirts of the
~~most diligent~~ diligent, found that
Armorica was no longer a good country
for

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lady, the blessed baby, should be christened! She
a royal princess, who treated not better than
a babe born in a bog!"

Sir Selan scratched his head & said nothing,
but Guine was satisfied, for she knew by his
eye that he was of her own mind in the
matter: every soul in Retignoon knew and
when Sir Selan made up his mind about
it a thing was as good as done.

And it was time for the royal child to bear a name
she be treated as a little Christian princess. She
was six months old that very day, & her father
had never looked upon her since the coronation
night - when ^{she came on} ~~he had held her~~ a moment - laying
her upon his great hand. It was in vain that
nurse Gamel had tried to waylay him with
the bonny baby in her arms: no sooner did he
catch sight of a woman's garments than he
would stride away & shut himself up in that
high tower chamber where he spent his solitary
days. He went no more to chase or war. Nor
more did he sit in the great hall to do justice
^{throughout} ~~between~~ his people, or to grace their feasts with
his royal presence. With hair uncut & face
unshaven, with doublet hanging loose &
hands hanging listless, eating little & saying
less, he sat: day after day, in the deep embrasure
of a window, his lips moving now & then to
mutter, "His bride shall be five!"

Ship did not go to rack & ruin, for Sir Selan
came to everything; not a baby was born, not
an old woman was laid with rheumatism.

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in all Brittany, but he knew it: the west. knights-
whose lives he thought, now was threatened, found
themselves kept in check by a firm hand. But
for one Lestat was not happy in his work. He
was filled with sorrow & shame for the living rather
than for the dead: for how could his lord sit
there nursing his grief & neglecting the work
the good God had given him?

But the Christening! yes; here was a chance to
take the duke out of his sorrow. So Lestat set
about preparations for ~~such~~ a christening
worthy of the daughter of such a father & such
a mother. And every day, while the cooking &
furbishing went on, he stood before the duke &
said, -

"Let ~~us~~ invite Prince Lancelot, to do honour to
the lady Grisel's daughter."

And the duke would look up, & though he winced at
first when he heard his wife's name, by & by he got
used to it, & found took pleasure for the first time
in the thought of honouring his lady's ^{her} child.

So Lestat invited every royal prince & princess
in all every great lord with his lady in
all Gaul: Moreover, he sent across seas to
King Arthur himself a messenger ~~who should~~
to tell him the lamentable loss of Duke Hoel's
~~son~~ & daughter's grief.

"This will never do," said the king, when the
messenger had ^{done} told his errand. "We must
go & ~~save~~ ^{rescue} our nephew from the grip of this
devouring sorrow."

So the king commanded that the state barges,
with golden prow & silken sails, should be got
ready; he took with him the Queen Guinevere,
herself with lovely ladies of her train, & the knights

knights of his Round Table, & all the other great lords of his dominions who came as guests from their governments. And a great sight it was to see the royal noble company embark from the fair land of Lyonesse, to watch their shining ships sailing away towards the sunrise.

Meanwhile, immense preparations were being made at Perpignan. The palace, large as it was, would not hold nearly all the guests, & sixteen pavilions were put up about the country for the accommodation of the great lords for whom there was no room. There were lovely bowers, were made of green boughs & carpeted with fresh strewn rushes, for the use of the ladies.

At last the great day arrived, & all the princely company ~~had been~~ ^{were} might royally received, including King Arthur & Queen Guinevere & their noble retinue of knights & ladies. The archbishop himself ~~had come~~ to christen the child & the king & the queen were to stand for her.

His Holiness went to the bishop's chamber to help him into his state robes, & through the robes being loose as it made for a bigger man. It was a sorrowful thing to see his black locks become white as those of an old man, yet he ~~looked~~ ^{entered} every inch a prince as he stepped into the great hall, holding up his head & stepping with the lordly air by which he had been known ^{among Arthur's knights} throughout Christendom.

And the baby? Well, if her father looked a prince
 she looked every inch a princess, though there
 was not so many inches of her. It was good to
 see her sitting up straight in her nurse's arms,
 dressed in her lovely christening robe, &
 wearing a crown of gold - her own bright
 hair, like her mother's - two beautiful gems
 such as not a lady then could boast - her
 sapphire eyes, which must have come straight
 out of heaven for there was nothing on earth to
 match them. ^{with straight hair}
 Then she sat ^{with straight hair} ~~like a little queen~~, allowing her
 dainty ~~little~~ hand to be kissed, but declining
 to let anyone take her, until the beautiful queen
 came ~~she held out her hands~~ Then the child held
 out her arms with a lovely smile which the
 queen ^{who had no babies for years} put away in her heart among her
 most precious things.

"And how shall we name this dainty maid?"
 said the king. "By my troth, if I place her not
 broken in her name in every court in
 Christendom, her blue eyes ^{but I like her} ~~will be~~
 What sayest thou, Merlin?"

Now Merlin was the King's Wise Man: ~~but~~
~~never entered in any great empire but~~
~~to guide to the court with Merlin in affairs~~
 potent, in matters great & small, Merlin advised
 him: ~~there was never a deed of valor~~
 of virtue done throughout his vast dominions
 but Merlin had the king acquainted with it
 in the twinkling of an eye: ~~there was no electric~~
 telegraph.